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RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

No.1955/RD

RESOLUTION

Dated, the 10th February, 2005

Sub: Implementation of drinking water supply schemes on a participatory mode to promote sustainability of water supply systems and sources.

Providing adequate safe drinking water to all sections of the rural population on a continuous basis is of paramount importance, and it is necessary that the facilities provided are not short lived for lack of proper maintenance and upkeep.

2. Govt. has made significant interventions under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and a large number of drinking water supply sources such as piped water supply (PWS) projects, hand pump tube wells and sanitary wells have been installed in the rural areas. Non-involvement of people in operation and maintenance of the water supply systems, huge carrying costs and neglect of traditional water management practices have posed serious challenges for sustainability of the systems and sources.

3. In order to ensure that the intended beneficiaries are willing and able to use the drinking water facilities provided, ARWSP was restructured in 1999 and a few Sector Reform Pilot Projects were launched. In Orissa, the Sector Reform Pilot Projects were implemented in Sundergarh, Ganjam and Balasore districts. The project activities were designed to ensure community participation in drinking water supply projects.

4. In order to promote community participation in rural drinking water supply systems, the State Government has taken the following decision vide paragraph 13 of R.D.Department Resolution No.19238 dt.20.12.2002:

“13. In order to promote community ownership of the projects for sustainability, Government have further decided that for sanction and implementation of projects outside Sector Reform Districts from normal budgetary allocation, preference will be given to the projects where the potential beneficiaries, User Committee or concerned Grama Panchayat agree to contribute at least 10% of project cost as labour/ cash and also agree to take over operation and maintenance of the projects after implementation.”

5. With regard to operation and maintenance of piped water supply schemes, the State Government has taken the following decision vide paragraph 12 supra:

“12. In Sector Reform Districts, i.e. Ganjam, Balasore and Sundergarh, the Village Water and Sanitation Committees or Panchayati Raj Institutions are required to take over operation and maintenance of PWS Projects. Accordingly, it is decided that the Grama Panchayats / User Committees or Village or District WATSAN Missions, wherever they agree, may take over the operation and maintenance of rural water supply projects be it in Sector Reform Districts or in any other district”.

6. The aforesaid principle with regard to installation of new PWS schemes has not been strictly adhered to and the intended transfer of operation and maintenance of the commissioned PWS schemes has not evoked the desired response from the Gram Panchayat / Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC).

7. In the meantime, the reform initiatives have been scaled up and are being operationalised State wide as “Swajaldhara”. Swajaldhara has the underlining principle that the User Community would partially share the capital cost of the drinking water supply schemes and take full responsibility for operation and maintenance. The community contribution is 10% of the capital cost of the scheme, which could be in the form of cash/ kind/ labour or a combination of these. However, at least 50% (25% in case of ST/ SC villages) of the contribution shall be in cash. Swajaldhara as self-sufficient drinking water supply scheme is gaining acceptability.

8. Drinking water is a scarce resource and should be managed locally. Implementation of the participatory Swajaldhara alongside the supply driven programmes such as ARWSP with no involvement of the community is creating serious confusion among the stakeholders at all levels.

9. In order to meet the emerging challenges in rural water supply sector, it is felt necessary to bring about parity in ongoing rural water supply schemes/programmes with regard to funding pattern and operation and maintenance mechanisms, and to opt for a suitable funding pattern having an inbuilt mechanism to enlist people’s participation in installation, operation and maintenance of drinking water sources to improve service satisfaction and sustainability of the sources and systems.

10. Taking a holistic view of the requirements of rural water supply sector in terms of coverage and accessibility, and considering the experience gained from the Sector Reform Pilot Projects, recommendation of Orissa State Water and Sanitation Mission and other relevant inputs, Govt. has been pleased to decide as follows:

- i) For execution of PWS schemes, community contribution will be 10% (5% in case of SC/ST habitations) of the cost of the scheme excluding departmental charges (pro rata charges) for supply up to 40 lpcd and 20% for higher service level, as in the case of Swajaldhara. For capital-intensive multi-village/multi-Panchayat schemes characterized by treatment plants and/or distant water source, the cost of installations inside the village boundary will be reckoned as the scheme cost for the special purpose of calculating community contribution payable. In some extreme cases where occurrence of fluoride in groundwater is beyond the permissible limit and tube wells are not feasible, Govt. on considering all attending facts on a case-to-case basis, may direct payment of community contribution at a lower rate.
- ii) For installation of tube wells/sanitary wells in NC habitations, community contribution will not be insisted upon. For installation of tube wells/sanitary wells in other category of habitations, the community contribution will be 10% (5% in case of SC/ST habitations). Where, the cost of installation is more than the average cost worked out for the State, the community will contribute additionally 2% of the incremental cost, the total contribution not exceeding Rs.5000.00.
- iii) The community contribution could be in the form of cash/kind/labour or combination of these, with at least 50% (25% in case of SC/ST habitations) in cash. Since the entire fund may not be made available during one financial year, community contribution could be proportionate to the size of fund available for the scheme during a financial year.

- iv) MLA/MP LAD Funds (within the scope of relevant rules), contribution from Gram Panchayat, Non-Govt. Organization (NGO) and such other organizations could be used to bridge the shortfall in community contribution. However, the assistance received from all such sources shall not exceed 50% of the total contribution payable by the community
 - v) For execution of new PWS Schemes/augmentation of existing schemes, preference will be given to habitations where the critical parameters of quality and quantity are not met. New PWS schemes for higher service level will be permitted under special facts and circumstance
 - vi) Formation of a duly registered Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), its willingness to share the cost of the scheme and full responsibility for operation and maintenance are the pre-requisites for execution of PWS schemes. Where the GP concerned undertakes to mobilize community contribution and to take full responsibility for operation and maintenance, registration of the VWSC is optional. The VWSC/GP will be invariably required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Executive Engineer/Assistant Engineer of RWSS Organisation having jurisdiction over the area. A model draft MoU will be circulated for the purpose.
 - vii) All ongoing PWS schemes when completed would be taken over by the VWSC/GP concerned for operation and maintenance. The required undertaking will have to be secured before the scheme is completed. The completion certificate would carry an endorsement of the VWSC/GP that the scheme has been completed to their satisfaction.
 - viii) With regard to operation and maintenance of multi-village/multi-Panchayat schemes (characterized by treatment plants and/or distant water source) RWSS Organisation will be responsible for head works and rising main, and VWSC will be responsible for distribution line and stand posts/domestic connections inside the village boundary.
 - ix) The number of service connections to be given from any PWS scheme will be subject to the approval of the Executive Engineer, RWSS having jurisdiction over the area.
 - x) Capital cost of the drinking water supply schemes will be fully met from the budget allocation or deposits as the case may be. The amount paid by the Community towards contribution and assistance received to supplement the contribution will be retained by the VWSC/GP in a separate bank account (to be operated as per the MoU drawn) and will be used to meet the cost of Operation and Maintenance. In some extreme cases, especially for habitations having significant fluoride problem, Govt. on considering all relevant facts on a case-to-case basis may supplement the operation and maintenance fund.
 - xi) Where the VWSC/GP takes full responsibility for operation and maintenance of the drinking water supply scheme, the VWSC/GP will decide the user fees payable and the user fees collected will be retained in the bank account (where the contribution money is parked) to meet the cost of operation and maintenance.
 - xii) In case of a major breakdown of a PWS scheme, Government on considering the recommendation of the SE having jurisdiction over the area will decide the extent of financial assistance to be given to meet the cost of restoration.
11. The aforesaid principles will govern:
- a) All drinking water supply schemes taken up under budget allocation and deposit schemes such as MLA/MP LAD Funds/ WODC/ Peripheral Development Funds of Public Sector Undertakings etc.
 - b) Accordance of Administrative Approval.

12. The Chief Engineer, RWSS/OSWSM will formulate an operational action plan for transferring commissioned PWS schemes (starting with small village based schemes) to VWSC/Gram Panchayat in a phased manner, for operation and maintenance.
13. Resolution No.19238/RD dt.20.12.2002 stands modified to the aforesaid extent.
14. Doubts and question relating to any provision of this Resolution shall be referred to Govt. in Rural Development Department and the decision of the Govt. in the matter shall be final and conclusive.
15. This Resolution except in so far as it relates to payment of contribution for hand pump tube wells and sanitary wells shall take immediate effect. The provision relating to payment of contribution for tube wells/sanitary wells shall take effect from 1.7.2005.

ORDER

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the extraordinary issue of the Orissa Gazette and copies thereof be forwarded to all Departments of Govt./ Chief Administrator, KBK, Koraput/ All Heads of Department/ Orissa State Water and Sanitation Mission/ Accountant General (A&E) Orissa/ Sr. D.A.G. (Works Audit & Projects), Puri/ All RDCs/ All Members of Parliament from Orissa/ All Members of Orissa Legislative Assembly/ All Zilla Parishads/ All Collectors/ UNICEF, Orissa/ Member Secretary, District Water & Sanitary Mission of all districts/ Chief Engineer, RWSS/ Superintending Engineers of all RWSS Circles/Executive Engineers of all RWS&S Divisions/Assistant Engineers of all RWSS Sub-divisions/All B.D.Os./All Tahasildars

By order of the Governor

A. BEHERA

Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt